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käufliche Erwerbung wir gern umgehen möchten, bedeutet das vorgesetzte Fragezeichen, ob der Besitzer vielleicht bereit ist, uns dasselbe—gegen Erstattung aller Unkosten—für die Zeit der Ausstellung zu überlassen.

The provisional catalogue contains the titles of works under the following headings: Books of reference; Encyclopædias, etc.; Government, Constitution, Public institutions; Education, schools, colleges, universities; Army, navy, etc.; History and geography; Country and people ("Land und Leute;") Manners and customs; Sport; Dictionaries (English, English-German, German-English;) Slang, etc.; Press, Book-trade, etc.; *Fachzeitschriften*;—*Anschaungsmittel für den Unterricht*;—English newspapers and periodicals.

I think this exhibition will probably interest the educators, scholars and, especially, the modern-language men not only of Great-Britain but also of this country and Canada. There are indeed, for the present, only very few American books noted in the catalogue; and I am surprised not to find there, among the *Fachzeitschriften*, beside the *Anglia*, *Englische Studien*, *Neuere Sprachen*, etc.,—the MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES and the *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, which have done so much for the study of English and are so favorably known in Europe, at least in Germany.

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SHAKESPEARE PARONOMASTES.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—Capell, in his *Notes on Shakespeare*, gives from a rare and obscure pamphlet, an anecdote which, though it is familiar to Shakespeareans, I shall cite in his own words:

"Shakespeare was god-father to one of Ben Jonson's children, and after the christening, being in deep study, Jonson came to cheer him up, and asked him why he was so melancholly. 'No, faith, Ben,' says he, 'not I; but I have been considering a great while what should be the fittest gift for me to bestow upon my god-child, and I have resolved at last.' 'I pray thee, what?,' says he. 'I' faith, Ben, I'll e'en give her a dozen good Latin (latten) spoons, and thou shalt translate them."

Capell, referring to the way in which Jon-

son transferred Tacitus bodily into his *Sejanus*, thinks that this gibe must have 'cut him to the quick.' Later biographers turn up the nose at the pun as too poor and pointless even for Shakespeare; but none of them (as far as I have seen) perceives that it is a double pun. Ben was not only a famous Latin scholar, but profoundly versed in the lore of alchemy. Now 'translate' was used by Shakespeare and his contemporaries in the sense of 'transmute;' for example:

Translate his malice toward you into love.
Cor. ii, 3.

And Shakespeare's other meaning was: 'I'll give a dozen brass (latten) spoons, which you may transmute into gold.'

Should this view be tenable, then, if there be any honor due him who makes two puns grow where only one grew before, I respectfully submit my claim to consideration.

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AN ANGLO-SAXON GLOSS.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—In the Wright-Wülker *Vocabularies*, col. 191, line 29, occurs the gloss, "*Siliquastrum, uel cathedra quadrata, fīperscyte setel.*" This gloss, I suspect, is derived from Hyginus' *Astronomica*, ii. 10, or iii. 9. The word *siliquastrum* (*seliquastrum*) is likewise found in Varro and Festus; Professor Minton Warren also calls my attention to *Corpus Glossariorum*, vol. v, p. 513. But that Hyginus is more likely to have been the immediate source for the knowledge of the word among the Anglo-Saxons may be inferred from the fact that Bede uses Hyginus, though without acknowledgment, in his treatise *De Circulis Sphæræ et Polo* (cf. Hyginus, ed. Bunte, p. 8).

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THE ANGLO-SAXON geðæf.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES.

SIRS:—Touching Prof. Blackburn's "Note on Alfred's *Cura Pastoralis*" in the February number of your Journal, I beg to refer to §9 b (misprinted d) of my *Die Syntax in den Werken Alfreds des Grossen* (Bonn, 1894), where I suggested the same meaning for the rather puzzling expression *geðæf bion*.

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